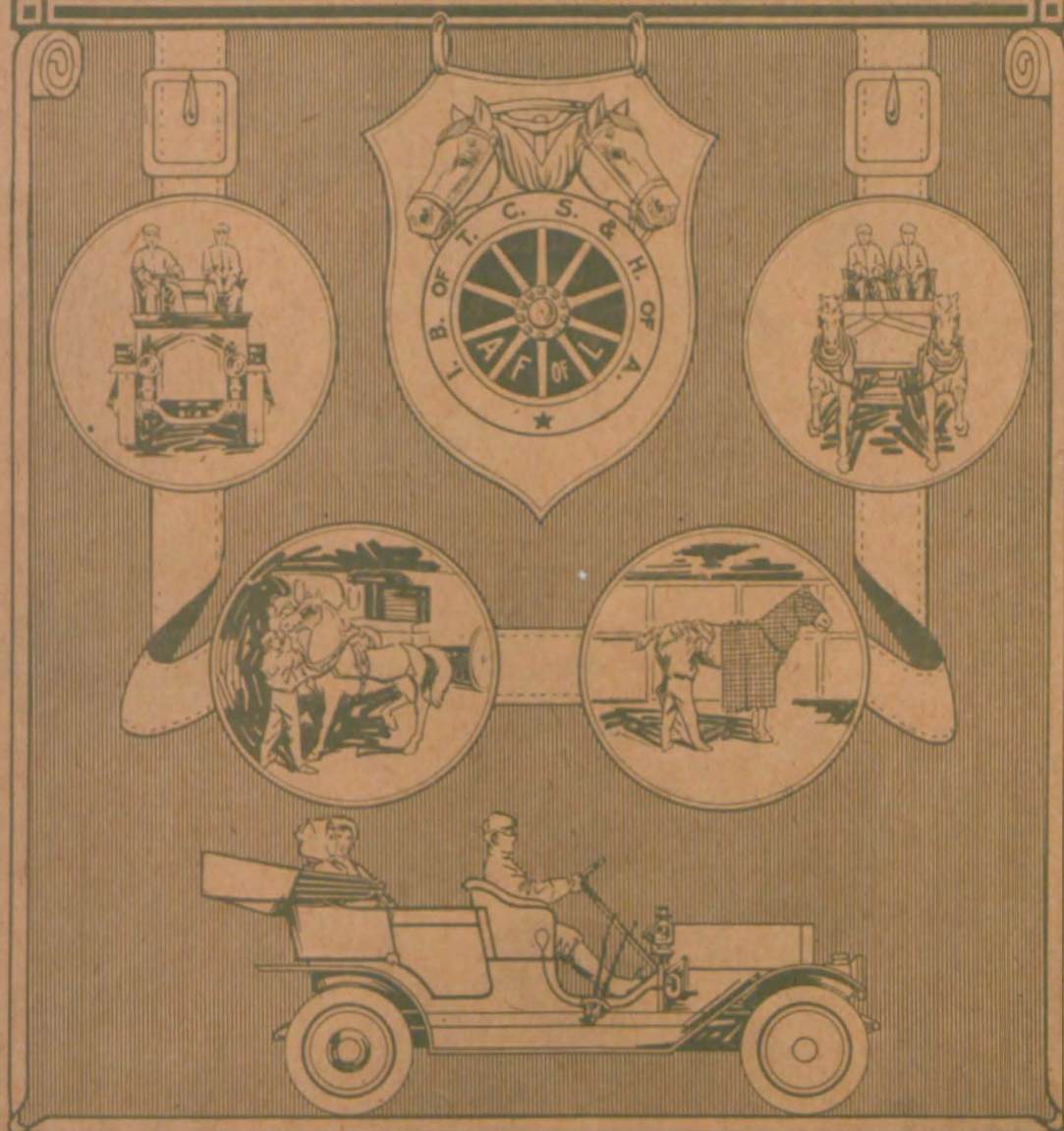


APRIL, 1917

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF  
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD  
TEAMSTERS • CHAUFFEURS  
STABLEMEN AND HELPERS  
OF AMERICA





Vice-President George King of Cleveland has been acquitted in court by a jury of his peers of all charges made against him by the district attorney, assisted by the employers' association of that city. One of our members named Stine—business agent for the van drivers' union of Cleveland—turned State's evidence against King, or assisted the district attorney in every way possible to convict him. But even in the face of all this Brother King proved his innocence and was found not guilty of all of the charges. The International office has ordered the local union to expel from membership Mr. Stine, because, on his own testimony in court, he is not a proper person to hold membership in our organization. Mr. Stine admitted that he had obtained money from the bosses.

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Al Clinton, formerly business agent of Local Union No. 600 of St. Louis, was found guilty of murder in the second degree by a jury in St. Louis, a few days ago, and was sentenced to ten years in prison. Clinton, some time ago, owing to a dispute in Local Union No. 600, shot Samuel E. Nacer, one of our members. Brother Nacer was one of our best-known members. Clinton was also a conscientious, hard-working business agent and had worked for the local union for a long time. There was some dispute about the finances of the local union and he was also charged with holding back some money belonging to the local union. It was an unfortunate affair and the lives of two good members have been destroyed because Brother Nacer has passed to the great beyond and Clinton will never again be able to re-establish himself in the minds of the trade unionists of St. Louis, even after his sentence in the penitentiary has expired. The statement is made by those who happened to witness the affair that Clinton was under the influence of liquor when this unfortunate circumstance occurred. It is another one of the cruel affairs that happen as a result of intoxication or partial intoxication. Again we say to our membership that no officer of a local union should be allowed to work for the local union who indulges to any extent in strong liquor. Al Clinton may lay at the feet of intoxicating liquor the fact that his life has been ruined and that he is also responsible, per the finding of the jury, for the death of one of the best members of Local No. 600.



# — OFFICIAL MAGAZINE — INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS CHAUFFEURS STABLEMEN AND HELPERS.



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## THE LIVERY STABLE



T a public sale of a livery stable's equipment at Lafayette, a few days ago, some fine examples of the coach builders' art, which a few years ago cost more than a good automobile costs today, were knocked down at \$2 apiece. A sleigh—who remembers when sleighing was considered the most exhilarating of winter sports?—which cost \$500, was sold for 50 cents, and a rubber-tired buggy, which cost \$1,000, was sold for \$10. This does not mean that the buggy has been crowded off the road, for in the rural districts a great many buggies still are sold, it being suspected that for general courting purposes they are vastly superior to anything in the vehicle line yet invented.

But certainly the livery stable must by this time find business dull. Thus passes a great institution, where the wits were wont to gather and discuss horses, men, politics and crops, but especially horses. In many a small town the livery stable office was really the place to get a true insight into public opinion. The traveling men who came to engage a rig were always willing to discuss the affairs of the outside world, the farmers who left their horses to be fed while in town were as likely as not to loaf about the barn while their wives did the



shopping, there to discuss crops and the weather, and, of course, no young man could hire a narrow-seated rig without revealing, either by his actions or his speech, the progress of his affairs of the heart.

But it is to be doubted if the real hero of the livery stable—the livery stable horse—will shed many tears over the passing of the livery stable. It was his lot to be driven almost every day by a strange hand. Often he was abused by persons who urged him beyond his powers, and who neglected to water him. Sometimes he was called upon to do his own driving, the lines having been entrusted to the dashboard. And, it must be admitted, he was frequently called upon to make good the promises of his owner, who, upon occasion, did not hesitate to recommend him as being far superior to any horse that ever wore a shoe. This versatile and patient beast has about had his day. It is even possible that after leading such a life he is glad to drag cannon around over a European battlefield. — Indianapolis News.

### FREE MEN, NOT SLAVES

A republic can only exist where men are free, declared President Gompers at a public hearing on a proposal by Oscar S. Straus, chairman of the public service commission, that strikes should be prohibited and that a wage board would settle disputes between street railroads and their employees.

"We will oppose the proposal step by step and will not yield one inch in opposing it during all its progress," said President Gompers. "We will fight it in the courts, and, if beaten there, we will exercise our God-given natural right, the law notwithstanding. You may make us lawbreakers, possibly, but you are not going to make us slaves.

"If the miners had not struck

work, and there had been such a wage board in Pennsylvania as you propose, the miners might have waited a century or two before getting what they did. If they had not struck, not one of them would have dared tell of the misery, the horror, the tyranny and the brutality that existed there.

"The change in conditions in the needle industries of New York was accomplished by strike. The employers could have convinced any wage board that they could not pay more wages and that they could not make the sanitary improvements which the strikes brought.

"I am not an advocate of strikes. I have done as much as any man in the whole world to try and avert strikes. But after all, some people imagine that a strike is some species of barbarism, when, as a matter of fact, it is only in civilized countries where strikes occur. In other countries we find riots and revolution. I want to accentuate the contrast which this subject has in my mind—the difference between a violent aggression upon person and property on the one hand, and the right of a man to fold his arms and do nothing."—Weekly Letter.

### PROHIBITION IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Hon. Ben Johnson, Chairman, District of Columbia Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.:

Dear Sir—About two weeks ago I addressed a telegram to you calling attention to the fact that the members of the Cigar Makers' International Union of America were vitally interested in the measure before your committee, dealing with the prohibition question in the District of Columbia, the injurious influence of such a measure upon the more than one hundred thousand workers in the cigar industry. I asked that either myself or Mr.



Joseph Dehan might have the opportunity of appearing before your committee and laying before them the facts and figures which would demonstrate the unwisdom and injustice which such a measure would inflict were it enacted into law. Mr. Dehan has been in constant attendance at the meetings of the committee and has had no opportunity of presenting the facts which have been placed in his possession. For nearly two weeks I have been serving, nearly every day and many evenings, as a member of the advisory commission with the Council of National Defense, dealing there with momentous subjects of first importance in the present situation in which our country is placed, and I have therefore been unable to attend any meeting of your committee.

Of course, it would be useless to undertake to present an argument in this letter against the proposal for prohibition, either in the District of Columbia or elsewhere. Suffice it to herein state that my travels, observation and experience show beyond a measure of doubt that prohibition by law is an iniquitous proposition that carries within its wake not only denial of freedom, fails to accomplish the purpose of curing the drink evil—an evil admitted by all—and that it (prohibition by law) is violative of the fundamental principles of human freedom, that there is no agency so potent to make men temperate in all their habits as the much misunderstood and misrepresented organized labor movement—a movement which brings improvement in the mental and physical status of our people and reduces to a minimum the desire, the taste or the habit of intemperance.

Then again, the method by which the measure now before Congress is sought to be forced through without due consideration

of all elements and all the people involved, and without even giving the people of the District of Columbia an opportunity to express themselves thereon.

It ought not to require an argument to any American congressman to convince him against a procedure unheard of in the legislative annals of our country, and particularly when a proposal is of a character so violative of rights and interests and involving so large a number of people.

Today our country and our people are confronted by a crisis in their lives; no one can now foretell its widespread influences and consequences. In such a situation, is it wise, is it just, is it patriotic to divide our people in the face of such a crisis?

I have only referred indirectly to the great economic injury to the more than one hundred thousand members in the cigar industry, and to their families, involved in the proposal before your committee. How far-reaching the evil influence of such a piece of legislation would result upon the lives of several millions of workers, directly and indirectly employed in the industry sought to be crushed, surely deserves some consideration; surely more consideration than can be given to it in the limit of three hours' debate under which this great question is to be disposed of should the pending recommendation of the committee on rules prevail.

In the name of the Cigar Makers' International Union of America, its men, their women and children, I am authorized and do protest against the disposal of this important question in this summary and unjust manner.

Very respectfully yours,

SAM'L GOMPERS,  
First Vice-President of the Cigar  
Makers' International Union of  
America.



# EDITORIAL

(By Daniel J. Tobin.)

WITH the clouds of war hanging over us, with each day bringing us nearer to a conflict with a certain European nation, with high prices surrounding us on every side, is it not safe to say that our people and our country is today standing in a very delicate position. What the future will bring to our people no one knows. It seems at this time to be almost a certainty that we will be drawn into the war before many more weeks pass over our heads. No one except the man who is at the head of our nation could have kept us out of war up to the present time and done so with dignity, but, like everything else, all hopes of our continuing in a state of peace seems to be passing away. There is no class in the world that this conflict means more to than to the working people. First, because the working people are the ones who are asked to give up their life-blood. The thousands and hundreds of thousands of men required to defend the nation will come mainly from the working classes and the trades unions, and the work of the trades unions, should the war continue any length of time will be dangerously interfered with. We have some people who are still optimistic enough to think that a declaration of war against a foreign power will mean nothing very serious, but this is absolute foolishness. We will be led on step by step until finally we will be requested to land an army, fully equipped, on European soil. The make-up of that army will be taken mostly from the working men of our country; thousands of men will be drafted from the trade unions. From the very first or beginning of the war men will have to be drafted. The history of the war is this: That every trade union in Europe has been practically demoralized as a result of the war, with the exception of the trades unions in England, and even they are fighting a daily struggle for existence and recognition and have had to surrender to the government most of the rules governing their unions. In passing let me say that perhaps it was absolutely necessary for the government of Great Britain to insist on the trades unions surrendering their rules temporarily, but only in England does any semblance of a union continue to exist. Whether or not the trade unions of America will be able to outlive the shock is another thing. Unions, however, must be prepared to fill up the ranks just as quickly as our membership is taken away, and we will be seriously interfered with.

Take, for instance, the Milk Wagon Drivers' Union of Chicago, Local No. 753, with a membership of nearly three thousand. The average age in this union is not more than twenty-five years. Were an order to be issued drafting men between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-five, in all probability at least one thousand men would be called to the colors from this one particular union. Then the question would arise as to filling their places. Older men would have to be placed on the wagons, and as time went on the union would be asked to suspend its rules in the interest of the community and the nation, and then as time went on a little further pressure would be brought to bear on the government to help in the situation, and while the rules of the union would insist that the employers force all men into the union whom they might employ,



still the employer may not be able to do so, and with a shortage of men, and we have even now a shortage of labor, the employer would hide under the cloak that it was impossible for him to do so, as he could not find men to take their places. This condition would prevail in nearly every one of our unions. Chauffeurs and practical men to operate motor trucks, etc., would be drafted, and so it would be, and the labor movement of the country will be confronted with a situation more serious than it can even now imagine. The coal miners will be asked to work in the mines day and night and suspend their rules as they are now asked to do in England, France and Germany. Very shortly we would have rebellion against government and rules, and again men may be forced, at the point of a musket, to work against their wills.

All of this may not come to pass, but this is the history of what has happened in England, where the men in the unions were strong and determined against having their individual rights trampled on. When the war in Europe was in existence one year an Englishman spoke to me in Philadelphia, and said: "I will not enter the war because I do not believe in war, and if I am going to be shot I am going to be shot by an English musket and on English soil." In other words, he meant rather than go into the war he would allow his own government to shoot him for treason because he was one of the men who did not believe in war—and let me say in passing that he was no coward. Shortly after this conscription became a fact in England and this man was drafted and he is today fighting in the trenches in France. Ben Tillett, the great Socialist leader, a man who all his life had preached against war, as per the doctrine of Socialism, we find today engaged in traveling throughout France, England and Scotland, endeavoring to arouse the enthusiasm of the workers so that he might be helpful to the government in filling up the ranks, and we could go on enumerating instances where men who were even more bitterly opposed to war than is any man in this country, today fighting with their government in the countries at war. Trade unionism has been set aside, socialism has been set aside and everything else, in fact, has been set aside by the nations engaged in this struggle. Then is it not safe to say that the same condition will prevail in our country?

This article is written so that you may have some idea of what might happen and so that you may prepare to protect your unions. If the things I mention above do not happen, if we still continue at peace with the world, and can do so honorably, all is well, but should the worst come upon us, as it appears now at this writing, then let us be prepared to meet a life and death struggle for the maintenance of our organizations.

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**F**OR the information of our membership the Editor desires to say that the letter printed below is written by Brother Bailey, recording secretary of Local Union No. 611, Bakery Wagon Drivers of St. Louis. This local union for several years was affiliated with the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' International Union. Two years ago the union as a whole came over and affiliated with our International Union. The majority of the members are well versed in trade unionism. Since their affiliation with our International they have been loyal to our laws, observing every section of our constitution, and their dealings with the International office has been of the most friendly and amiable character. They certainly have shown, in many instances, a



better spirit of fraternity and trade unionism than some of the old local unions chartered by the International office:

"St. Louis, Mo., March 16, 1917.

"Mr. D. J. Tobin, Indianapolis, Ind.:

"Dear Sir and Brother—In looking over the report of the General Executive Board, published in the March Journal, considering the very small per capita tax, I think our officers are deserving of a vote of thanks for the wonderful showing they have made. I believe I can truthfully say we are now paying the smallest per capita tax of any organization in the country. Local No. 611 before affiliating with the I. B. of T., C., S. and H. of A. were connected with an organization where we paid 90 cents per month. While we had a small sick and death benefit, we had no more protection than we have now, so we, as members of No. 611, feel as if we are getting a bargain. But, brothers, are we doing the right thing in keeping our per capita tax at 15 cents? Do you think we are doing justice to our organization and our General Officers? Only in the last report of the General Executive Board it was very plainly shown that we should increase this tax. Another thing we need (I believe our General President recommended it at the San Francisco convention) but no action was taken on it for lack of time, is a much larger journal—I will not say a better one, though it will be better by being larger, but a journal of say forty or fifty pages, telling of the good things that are being accomplished by our brothers in different parts of the country. A roster of our locals could be published giving our meeting nights. A journal of this kind would be a silent organizer for us. So, brothers, let's talk this over and when the time comes, when we have the opportunity to vote on an increased per capita tax (if we ever do), we will not think of the money, but think only of the upbuilding of our organization.

"Since my last appearance we have been plugging away trying to teach our brothers the cardinal principles of unionism—brotherly love. While we have nearly a 100 per cent. organization, we have several raw recruits who are inclined to kick over the traces, such as wanting to be president and dictate to the rest of us, but when they are called before our local executive board, who show no partiality but live up to the by-laws, they do not have to get the second call. Here I want to say a few words to our brothers: A few of us are inclined to get a little careless in making out our night cards; also in our stale percentage your route superintendent, who is a brother member of this organization, is the one that suffers for your neglect. Just imagine yourselves getting a calling down for not leaving what a customer wants after you run a route on a set of night cards that are not up to date. So much has been said about stale I will only say this when you bring back 20 per cent. stale; your employer is not making any money, so how do you expect him to pay you. So let's make money for the boss by watching this. I might mention the wasting of paper bags, also running a rack over pans, which is done in some shops. If we will watch these points when the time comes to sign our next contract the bakery bosses of St. Louis will be glad to sign, for they will say to our business agent, 'The men of Local No. 611 are making money for us and we are glad to meet their demands.'

"Fraternally yours,

"JOHN W. BAILEY,

"Recording Secretary No. 611."



Labor must be ever watchful of the enemies on the inside as well as those on the outside. The most dangerous of the two are those on the inside—men who under the guise or cloak of trade unionists attempt to disrupt the union by circulating dangerous insinuations against the union or the officers of a union. Recently I had an experience similar to what I have often referred to about detectives and spies holding membership in our union. Local No. 242, Milk Wagon Drivers of Indianapolis, were ordered to quit the union by two employers, who had practically been made by the union. There was nothing left for the men to do except to give up their membership in the union or quit work. They chose the latter course. After the men were out one day the secretary-treasurer went back to work. During the few hours that he was out he endeavored to influence as many of the others as possible to give up the union and go back with him to the boss. Some few unfortunates fell for his game. Now we learn that he was always reporting everything that took place at the meetings of the union to the boss—was in the union for that purpose. Brothers, beware of those traitors! There is no way that we can keep them out of the union, but if you notice a slick article always trying to create suspicion or continual trouble against the officers of a local who have made the union, perhaps while he was strike-breaking some place, or at least not heard of, beware of him. The same is true of attacks made against the International by men who have but recently joined the union. Respect for authority, discipline, abiding by the will of the majority—this is the rule adopted by real union men.

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**S**PRING is opening up and we ask you to put your shoulders to the wheel and do all you can to help us this year by making your organization stronger and better. If your dues are low be ahead of the other fellow by advocating high dues and keep up the argument until you get results. Talk unionism whenever you get a chance, understanding, of course, that we do not want anyone to make himself a common nuisance or obnoxious. By all of us pulling together we can accomplish almost anything. Let there be harmony in our meetings and let us practice loyalty to one another. Help the officers out when they are right; when they are wrong, remove them from office at the end of their term. Remember that every time you get a new man into the union you do something to build up the organized labor movement and you are like a missionary bringing some one with-in the fold. You are helping the man you are bringing in and strengthening the great bulwark of organized labor. Never become discouraged in this battle. Remember that even though we may sometimes get set back, we are still forging ahead, for the International never was stronger than it is today, and we have accomplished all this by helping each other, believing in one another, setting aside all back-biting, jealousy and unjust criticism of one another. If union labor means anything; if our organization means anything, it means that we are solemnly bound together to help one another.

Above all, attend the meetings of your local and pay strict attention to the workings of your union. Every man has the opportunity of raising himself to a position of trust within his organization. The smallest office that anyone holds signifies that that man has been elected



to that position by the rank and file of his membership who have absolute confidence in him; then, if you are elected to any office prove to them that their confidence has not been misplaced by doing everything in your power to aid and help them, and fill the office with respect to yourself and credit to your union. Be honest with your employers, even though sometimes the employers, in your opinion, are unjust. A good man, an honest man, a faithful worker, can force the meanest employer to respect and honor both himself and his union. What pulls us down sometimes are the good-for-nothing articles who once in a while slip into our organization. We cannot keep them out, because they have been hired by the employer, and we know little of them, until after they are employed. We are not responsible for the weaklings that we have among us. It is impossible to make everyone perfect, and if our membership were all perfect they would not all be driving a team or operating an automobile. You cannot find any large body of men absolutely perfect, but we contend that the majority of our members are real live, hard-working, honest men. They prove this every day because the merchandise and products of our country, sufficient to heat us, and feed us, are handled by our membership throughout the year. Again we urge you to reach out your hand to your fellow-members this year and help the International and yourself by building up your organization.

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John (Pollock) Miller, business agent of the Coal Teamsters of Chicago, has passed away since our last publication. For many years he was active in our organization and was well known by our members throughout the country, as he attended the Boston convention and lent his assistance toward defeating the then President of the International Union. As the information comes to us, we understand that he was ill but a very short time.

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William Kelly, one of the leaders in the secession movement, started by Al Young immediately after the Chicago convention in 1906, recently committed suicide. For many years he was a police officer in the city of Chicago. He also at one time was business agent of the coal teamsters. He left a note to his family stating that, owing to the fact that he was accused of a crime, which he claims he did not commit, which was that he was one of the auto bandit gang that had held up the Best brewery, taking away the pay roll. The charge had weighed upon his mind so heavily he could stand it no longer and decided to end his life, although his superior officers in the police department of Chicago believed Kelly innocent of the charge. Mr. Kelly was at one time very prominent in the teamsters' movement in Chicago. He worked hard for the upbuilding of the Coal Teamsters' Union, and worked just as hard to pull down the International Union before leaving the organization. His passing away is only another reminder of the foolishness of men who go to extremes to do certain things, stopping at nothing to bring about their purpose. After all the only actions and work that count are the unselfish acts performed by individuals in any community which help the great rank and file. Some day we shall all be numbered among those who *have been* and are gone, so the thing we should do is to try to do good for those we represent, for



those who may come after us, performing our duty as officers and members of the great labor movement in accordance with the obligation we have taken.

A CONFERENCE of the labor leaders of the country was called in Washington recently by President Gompers for the purpose of talking over the situation in our country, due to the fact that our country was on the verge of a declaration of war. A letter and telegram was sent out by President Gompers asking every International organization to be represented, and your General President went to Washington in answer to this request to attend this conference. After arriving in Washington and entering the place where the conference was to be held, which was the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor, the gathering was called to order by President Gompers, who explained in a splendid address to the representatives present the cause for calling such a meeting. The call sent out by the President of the American Federation of Labor stated that this conference was to be for the representatives of National and International Unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor; at least this is the idea that was conveyed in the communication. However, in attendance at this conference also were the representatives of the four railroad brotherhoods. They happened to be in Washington at the time and were invited to attend this conference.

The majority of the organizations represented were small unions, such as the Jewelry Workers, the Lace Workers, Photo Engravers and several other small organizations whose International Unions have a membership of less than five thousand. We mention this because of the fact that we want our membership to understand that in the judgment of the writer the conference, from its attendance, was not really representative of the great organized workers of the country. The Brotherhood representatives were outside the American Federation of Labor, and it can be said truthfully that until recently they have never identified themselves as part of the great American labor movement, and there are few organizations, including some of the railroad organizations, who claim or say that the Brotherhoods ever helped them in any way, shape or manner, in so far as going to their assistance or helping to build up the successful labor organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. However, the Brotherhoods were there and had a great deal to say.

The writer is not trying to belittle the conference, but merely trying to explain to our membership what the conference amounted to. We were told that we were invited to Washington to consult and advise with the Executive Council in this serious crisis, so that Labor might devise some ways and means to protect itself by issuing some form of statement which would give the government officials an idea as to the attitude of Labor at the present time, not only toward the protection of our nation, but toward the protection of the several millions of working people whose interests might be involved should our country become entangled in the European war. To our great surprise a document had already been prepared by the Executive Council and was read at the conference, and the conference asked to adopt it, and to be brief, the conference did adopt it as a whole, or just as it was read by Vice-President Duncan. Your General President, being somewhat surprised



at the course the conference had taken, asked that the matter be referred to the executive boards of the several International Unions for their endorsement, in view of the fact that the representatives present, judging from his own position, had no power to vote their International Unions, as they had no idea that they would be called upon to do so, and had come to Washington without that necessary power. Although he explained that there was nothing in the document that he himself could not subscribe to, at the same time he felt that it was due the executive boards of National and International Unions (as many of the International Unions were not represented) that they have some say on the matter before it was given to the press as being the voice or declaration of Labor. His arguments and amendments, however, were voted down. He then asked that action on the matter be deferred until the following morning, but it seemed as though there was fear in the minds of some present that something might happen, and this request was also denied and the document was adopted as read, and Labor was pledged to do this, that, or the other thing. The reason we report this is due to the fact that some of the papers throughout the country, especially the New York papers, have contained statements to the effect that your General President seriously objected to the subject-matter of the document or manifesto presented to the conference by the Executive Council, and he wants to set himself right before his membership, although it may not be necessary, but a little information as to how things are done sometimes will do you no harm. In the first place, the personal opinion of the writer is that the conference was not representative of the labor organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. In the next place there really was no need of calling the representatives of Labor to Washington, taking them from their respective duties when crowded with work, more especially this year than ever before, sending them letters and telegrams asking them to come to Washington and consult and advise with the Executive Council as to the best ways and means, etc., when there was a cut-and-dried program already prepared which might have been mailed to the International officers and ask them to approve or disapprove of same.

Now for the document: The press of the country has quoted the American Federation of Labor, and Mr. Gompers especially, as coming out and declaring in favor of universal military training, or compulsory military training, etc. The document contained no such declaration. This document was really a reproduction of the pledge made about two years ago by the British Trades Union Congress. This document pledged the support of the trades union movement to the President in case he needed it, but hoping for peace, and asking that on matters of vital importance to the working people of the nation, such as to the formation of boards, committees, etc., that Labor be given the proper representation. This, in fact, was the substance of the document and there was no declaration in favor of militarism. The truth is, the American Federation of Labor is opposed to universal military service, or to anything that might tend toward establishing militarism in our country. From what we know of the inside work of the Executive Council a pretty serious argument arose within the council as to whether or not the council would favor compulsory military training or universal military service, not only during the present crisis, but after the war is over, and the majority of the council, we learn, were opposed to



universal military training or compulsory military service, such as they have in Germany and Austria and other European countries.

The majority of the members of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor believe that we had better keep our country free, or as free as we possibly can, from militarism. They believe that universal military training eventually leads to an eagerness or a desire to fight; that, in other words, high-class universal military training in Germany has been somewhat responsible for the great conflict now going on in Europe. Although one or two members of the Executive Council may favor universal military service, or training, the American Federation of Labor in its conventions and in its council has decided against it by a majority vote. This has been the action of the council and the conventions of the American Federation of Labor, and no matter what you have heard, if contrary to the above explanation, you have been misinformed. At the present time there are, even in the labor movement, a great many men who like to hear brass bands play and the drums roll around their own names.

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I HAVE repeatedly said, through the columns of this Magazine, that the General Executive Board and the General Office are opposed to the signing of yearly contracts, or wage scales. I again notify our local unions to get away from the yearly wage scale. I have before given my reasons for this request, and I want to repeat them:

First: That we can not afford to be disturbing the business of the employer and that of the employe every year. Get enough of a raise this year to take care of next year.

Second: All of our progressive unions throughout the country are signing for a term of two, three and four years. In the next place, under the old regime of signing a wage scale each year, a wage scale is no more than signed up when it is time to start drafting a new agreement and the business is continuously in a turmoil. In the next place, we believe, next year, especially, will be a bad year for the presentation of wage scales. Many of the men in Labor believe, from the information at hand, that this European conflict will end before another year passes over and after the ending of the war undoubtedly there will be a period of dullness before the country gets itself again properly adjusted, due to the fact that there are thousands of men and women working in the munition plants and the steel industry that will undoubtedly be thrown on the labor market immediately upon the ending of the war. This will bring business to a standstill to some extent and we are somewhat afraid of working conditions next year, and we ask you to tide your agreement over if you can, especially those of you who are now presenting wage scales.

Again you must realize that the General Executive Board has given deep thought to this particular matter and only as a result of their findings are they giving this advice to our local unions. We therefore advise you once more that the General Office is opposed to approving wage scales which are made to run for only one year, and ask you, when signing up your wage scale, to sign it for a longer term than one year if you desire the support and assistance of the International Union.



# CORRESPONDENCE



## PORTLAND, ME.

Mr. D. J. Tobin, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Dear Sir and Brother—Permission was granted me to write a short article for the Official Magazine.

Local 418, as you know, was organized August 3, 1916, with only fifteen charter members and ever since that time our membership has increased and we have gained ground steadily. We have five delegates to the Central Labor Union of our city and out of the five we have three members on the executive board of that body. We have signed agreements with every coal dealer in the city.

On January 11 we had our first dance and it proved one grand success financially. The hall was crowded and I think next year we will have to have a larger hall.

We have frequent open meetings and smoke talks and clam suppers that increase our membership a great deal, and I must say in conclusion that Local 418 is in a very flourishing condition.

The money derived from our dance was turned into the sick benefit fund.

Thanking you for space, I remain,  
Fraternally yours,

WALTER S. JOHNSON,

48 Washington Ave.,

Portland, Me.

ED. P. SULLIVAN, Rec. Sec.

## TERRE HAUTE, IND.

Mr. D. J. Tobin, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Dear Sir and Brother—Local 144 wishes to notify all other local unions, through our monthly Journal, that one Clarence A. Johnson has absconded with his employer's

money and has been expelled from our local and if he should ask for membership in another local notify us at once. As he has been employed for several years as a wholesale grocery driver, he will be most likely to apply for work at some grocery firm. Fraternally,

HARRY WARD, Rec. Sec.

## PITTSBURGH, PA.

Mr. D. J. Tobin, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Dear Sir and Brother—The Department Store Drivers, Chauffeurs and Helpers' Local No. 255, Pittsburgh, Pa., was organized in May, 1916, and is the first organization of its kind to be formed in this city, where the steel magnates rule and a city where union labor always meets with an unwelcome greeting. The boss' slogan is, "Make the Smoky City an Open City;" that is, as far as union labor is concerned.

Our local has managed to hold its own, having succeeded in organizing three of the largest department stores in the city and our future looked bright until January 11, 1917, when Kaufman's, the largest department store in the city, employing 128 of our members, called all of our men into a meeting and discharged them in a body, stating they were done with our local.

The men have stuck very loyally to the organization regardless of the fact that they are battling against considerable odds—the greatest odd being the high cost of living, but to date all amicable means of settlement have failed, as the firm has employed colored non-union men to fill our places. How-



ever, as we have the sympathy of the general public with us, and the non-union men are not very practical in their new-found positions, we intend to stick for a victory, which we hope may put an end to lockouts of this nature in the future in our line.

Fraternally yours,  
H. C. SCHACK,  
Sec.-Treas. Local 255.

### OAKLAND, CAL.

Mr. D. J. Tobin, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Dear Sir and Brother—I am writing to advise you that we have been successful in getting our agreement signed by all of our employers with one exception, and I believe it will only be a short time until this employer will also agree to sign.

Below I am giving you a list of names and description of men who were members of our organization but after the strike took place they did not live up to the principles of their obligation and proved untrue to our local. I wish you would publish these names and the description so that our membership throughout the country may watch out for these men and keep them out of the labor movement entirely:

George Hunt, Oakland, Cal., about 37 years old, medium height, thin face, sallow complexion, slim build, weighing about 145 pounds.

Steve DeLucci, Alameda, about 25 years old, short, heavy-set, fat face, Italian, about 165 pounds.

J. J. Skanell, Alameda, about 40 years old, tall, thin face, light complexion.

Wm. Davis, Alameda, Cal., about 5 feet 10 inches, light build, dark complexion, receding chin, 25 years old, 145 pounds.

Albert Tangor, Oakland, Cal., about 35 years old, tall, medium build, medium dark complexion, 165 pounds.

With best wishes for the continued success of our organization, I am,

Fraternally yours,  
W. DANIELS,  
Sec.-Treas. Local Union 302.

### OUR HORSES IN THE WAR

The terrible wastage of horses in war continues even in spite of the great extent to which motor-driven vehicles are utilized. It is reported that the French lost 5,011 horses on a three-mile front in the first eight hours of the opening night of the drive in the Verdun sector. It is estimated by military experts that the wastage on the west front in France has been more than 45,000 horses a month for every mile of battle line.

By wastage the military authorities designate horses killed and injured. Of course, a large number of those hurt in battle are restored to usefulness. There is a horse hospital every eight miles from the sea to Switzerland, along the west front. While many injured horses are saved, the loss in battle is so great that only the use of motor vehicles has made possible the continuation of the present war on the scale it has been waged.

The allies would have been at the end of their equine resources long ago had it not been for the United States. At the beginning of the war France had 525,000 horses suitable for military purposes. It is estimated that Germany had 720,000. We have shipped to England and France since October, 1914, a total of 2,815,000 horses and the shipments are continuing. France alone has spent \$380,000,000 for horses purchased in this country. We had at the beginning of the war nearly 22,000,000 horses, but a very large percentage of these were not adaptable to use in warfare.—Indianapolis Star.



# MISCELLANY



## THE MILK PROBLEM

A joint commission appointed to study problems of milk production and price in the States of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware, under the supervision of Professor Clyde L. King of the University of Pennsylvania has issued its report. The chief recommendation made is that milk distribution be recognized as a public utility. This would involve the keeping of accounts by dairymen in a form prescribed by the State; the licensing of all dealers; the licensing of testers in receiving stations, and, most important from the standpoint of dealer and consumer, the standardization of prices. The recommendations were arrived at by a commission composed of dealers, dairymen and professors of related branches of agriculture. Public hearings were held in Baltimore and Philadelphia. Both producers and dealers were in accord on the question of recognizing the milk industry as a public utility.

Other paragraphs of the report, according to the Survey, discuss effects on prices of the seasonal inequality of production. It costs a great deal more to produce and distribute milk in the winter than in summer, but there is not usually, as in the case of eggs and other farm products, any seasonal variation in prices. The price, therefore, for the year round must be set at a figure which will offset the small profit or actual loss in the winter months. The commission attempted to find ways of equalizing the production. The summer surplus can to some extent be taken care of by the storage of milk in the form of butter, cheese or condensed milk, and by the stimulation of new uses

at the time of greatest production, such as ice cream or confectionery. Production might be increased in winter and retarded in summer by having more cows freshen in August, a change which is said to be practicable.

It was found that the course of supply in the cities of three States studied was continually widening. Philadelphia gets only 40 per cent. of its milk supply from an area within a distance of forty miles. This seems to involve a waste and an unnecessary burden on the consumer, who must eventually pay the freight, but it is pointed out that the milk coming from a distance is usually the product of a region distinctly suitable for dairying and perhaps able to produce milk at a price much lower than nearby regions. Competition from a distance sometimes has a wholesome effect on prices in the city. The commission suggests a plan for insuring a fair return to producer and dealer without unduly raising prices by grading milk into three classes in addition to that known as "certified." This scheme is meeting with opposition from some who do not believe that any except first-grade milk should be sold to the public. Nothing is said in the report of the practicability of lowering prices by reforming the present wasteful system of retail distribution, with its duplication of routes.—Exchange.

## THE BONUS SYSTEM

The freedom of workers and their control of their own lives through collective bargaining by trades unions are being attacked now by the so-called "bonus system" among many employers. This



insidious attack is being made right along with the other bolder attacks on workers that is being made in the form of attempted laws for compulsion and conscription and to repeal the short working day.

As the executive board of the United Mine Workers of America recently said in effect, there might be a form of giving additional power to workers wherein the principle of collective bargaining through trades unions was recognized and wherein the additional pay was the result of the joint action of the employes and the employers. But the bonus system, as it is being worked now by the great corporations is, in practically all cases, the exact opposite of that. They fall within the warning uttered from the altar of St. Patrick's Cathedral last Christmas day by the Rev. Father John H. O'Rourke. "We should examine closely these bonuses and increases lest the great sin of defrauding the worker of his wages go unrebuked and even unnoticed. A bonus to employes," he declared subsequently to an interviewer of the Committee on Industrial Relations, "that is stained with the blood and tears of women and children and underpaid, overworked, and many times, mangled men, is not even charity. Such a bonus at its best is but a small tithe of restitution. At its worst it is a calculated, shrewd business investment, designed to keep workers content with low wages; designed to content them with dependence upon others instead of requiring that which is theirs."

"Labor does not want charity, nor pity, nor coddling," recently declared Warren S. Stone, grand chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. "We want that which is due us—a fair compensation for work well done."

A bulletin (No. 208) just recently issued by the Department of Labor in Washington, discloses that

the motive in most, if not all, of the bonus and so-called profit-sharing plans investigated by the department was precisely what Father O'Rourke warned against, "a calculated, shrewd business investment."

The bulletin quoted one of the bonus-paying employers as follows: "It (the bonus plan) works precisely like an increase in wages, but is more valuable because the employe, in order to receive his share, has to wait until the end of the distribution period, a fact that makes him hesitate before quitting which would naturally involve the forfeiting of his share in the profits."

What that employer meant was that the plan was precisely unlike and opposite to an increase in wages which had been secured by the collective action of the men themselves. For he goes on to say that his plan is more valuable to the employers because it makes his worker his dependent tool, afraid even to quit his job because of the little money that may be coming to him as the result of the employer's misnamed "benevolence."

And that is in line with all the experience of that kind of overlordship in the bonus systems. Other employers have openly boasted that when a worker is worked into a "benevolent" bonus plan, or pension plan, directed and controlled by the master, the worker's whole family is enlisted to keep him from feeling free to demand more wages along with his fellow workers, and from feeling free to quit his job for other employment even though it is to his direct benefit to do so.—Dante Barton.

### "GETTING EVEN" DON'T PAY

Don't be governed by the "get even" spirit.

This mean little spirit can be fostered and nourished until it becomes dangerous, until it makes demons out of us.



Antagonism brings us nothing, and its influence robs us of the power to enjoy life as we should, whether we exert it toward others or they toward us.

To be happy one must be at peace with his fellowman. While you have a desire for revenge in your heart you cannot get the full measure of joy out of this life.

We do not make enough effort to drive away these thoughts. We let too much bitterness creep into our souls.

Does it hurt the other fellow? Not half as much as ourselves.

Get down on your knees mentally this very minute and pray that this spirit of "get even" may be forgotten and that your heart may be filled with love and humility and service for others.—Exchange.

### REASONABLE WORKING HOURS MAKE BETTER CITIZENS

At the present stage of the discussion of reducing the hours of the workday it is no longer necessary to set out to prove the benefits to mankind gained everywhere in industrial life through cutting off all the hours of employment above ten. On the shelves of every public library in our cities are books and reports by the score telling of communities made more healthy, more sober, more happy, more enlightened by removing the burden of the intolerably excessive labor to which the workers generally were formerly driven. To lop off two, three, and even four hours above eight was a long step toward substituting humanity for brutality.

More than that, economically nothing was lost. At the end of the year the worker, on the average, yielded as much output at eight hours as at the longer day. He worked more days, he applied more muscle to his task, and he rose from an automaton drudge to an intelligent mechanic. It is also to be noted that every reduction in

the hours of daily labor has been followed by new and better tools and devices by which the production of the workers working under an eight-hour day has been vastly increased over the former long-hour workday.

The laborer's strength diminishes gradually in the course of the day. The last hours count against him most. Bodily ailments then develop in his weak spots. The quality of his work then falls off. His aversion, born of weakness and exhaustion, then takes root toward the natural avocations of a healthy nature in the hours off from the daily grind. It is then that, with a certain percentage of the worn-out toilers, a craving for stimulant arises, foreshadowing the deplorable consequences of indulgence in drink. It is then that the workman is unfitted to take part during the evenings in the various duties of his life, hence he is the less worthy as a citizen, the less helpful to the constructive institutions of society, the less a watchful, patient and competent father of a family.—Hon. Frank Buchanan.

### NATURE'S NOBLEMEN

(By Louella C. Poole.)

All sparkling crystal were the trees  
Like diamonds the snow—  
But, oh, alas! the icy streets  
Down which the horses go!  
With cautious feet they feel their way—  
Reins taut, with bated breath  
And glowing eyes—along those paths  
Of danger—aye, e'en death!

Now comes a horse, clean cut of limb,  
His master's joy and pride—  
His dangling badge bespeaks him such—  
The driver by his side!  
To sit high on his seat at ease,  
But adding to the load  
His beast must bear, was not his way,  
So down the hilly road

Right cheerily he trudged along  
That path of frozen sleet;  
The bridle of his horse in hand,  
He led him down the street,  
And with a friendly pat, kind words,  
Low spoken in his ears,  
He guided safe the slipping feet,  
And calmed the poor beast's fears.

Though rough of garb, of humble mien,  
Rude toil his daily part,  
Did not this simple act denote  
A gentleman at heart?  
Nay, more, perhaps; 'tis deeds that speak—  
Louder than tongue or pen—  
And tell who, in the finest way,  
Are Nature's noblemen.



We are continually receiving requests from local unions for sanction to strike in sympathy with other unions. Our local unions mix with nearly every other branch of industry. However, the International can not grant permission, guaranteeing financial aid or strike benefits in such cases. This, of course, is due to the fact that our per capita tax is so low that we could not possibly pay strike benefits in sympathetic strikes. The only sympathetic strikes where we can pay strike benefits are where the members of one local union of the International is out on strike to help the membership of another local union that has been engaged in a strike—provided, of course, that both local unions have had the sanction of the International before going on strike.

We also receive many requests for information as to what local unions should do where they are asked by the central body to cease hauling material into certain places where some organization has trouble. This is an unpleasant position to place our organization in, because where we have signed contracts with employers we are bound to observe those contracts. The fundamental principle of the trade union movement is close adherence to its contracts. Labor has always been proud of the fact that it has kept its solemn and binding promise and obligation to its employers. There are very few instances in the trade union movement where local unions have violated their agreements, and where this has happened and the trade union has violated its agreement, it has usually brought about its own destruction. Therefore, our answer to all local unions in cases of this kind is to observe their contracts with their employers. Of course, a district having trouble of this character may have surrounding it some very extenuating circumstances. For instance, a local union in a rural district may be a part of a trades assembly and all of the local unions holding membership in this assembly are working together, so in such cases the local union would have to use its own judgment, but provision should be made, when signing a contract, to protect the union against such an emergency. For the information of our membership I desire to say that the only answer the International can make to a request of this kind is that the local, above and beyond all, observe its contract so that when the time comes to renew its contract it can hold up its head and say that it has lived faithfully to its part of the contract in the past and will continue to do so in the future. This has been one of the greatest benefits to the labor movement—the keeping of all contracts. Employers have more confidence in the labor movement today than ever before, due principally to the fact that labor is scrupulously honest in carrying out its part of a signed contract.



*Official Magazine*  
*of the*  
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*of* Teamsters, Chauffeurs  
Stablemen *and* Helpers  
*of America*

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